

CITY'S NEW FILTER

This city is soon to have a water supply that will be the equal of any city of its size on the Coast and within a few weeks pure, filtered water will be pumped in the mains and reservoir and the citizens can bid adieu to the uncertain quality and highly colored fluid that is drawn from the faucets for a greater portion of the year.

While Willamette river water is proven not to be an unhealthful drinking water, still no one can relish a turbid, roily liquid.

The Board of Water Commissioners and especially the citizens are to be congratulated on the success of the undertaking and when the filtered water is at the command of every consumer then they will appreciate the great change and people will begin to realize that as far as water is concerned that this city is up-to-date and a good place to reside in.

After some two years endeavoring to find a suitable gravity supply, within the reach of the finances of the water works, it was decided last February to adopt the mechanical filtration system, so the board proceeded to further investigate the system and after much correspondence among which was the report of twelve different cities in the United States that are using filters of the Jewell Filter system, and are highly satisfied with the result, it was decided to take the matter up with the California Jewell Filter Company, and to that end a small pressure filter was installed for the experiment. An immediate improvement was at once noticed and a clear palatable water was furnished and the filter was allowed to remain from last March till December and was largely patronized by the public.

From samples that were analyzed at the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural College, it was shown that besides making the water absolutely clear and clean it removed all germs and a very small per cent of bacteria remained with no evidence of disease germs.

Contracts were signed in the latter part of last June, and it was expected that four months would complete the plant, but delay in getting iron pipe from the manufacturers, and other incidental delays has prolonged the work.

The site, 50x157, was secured from the P. G. E. Co., and is but 100 feet from the pumping station.

The Filter plant consists of two, 14-foot Jewell gravity filters, placed in a building 28x75, on a foundation that provides a reservoir of some 65,000 gallons for the filtered water. There are two 40,000 gallon settling

tanks at the rear of the building where the water from the in-take pipe is pumped and after allowing the sediment to settle, the water flows into the filters.

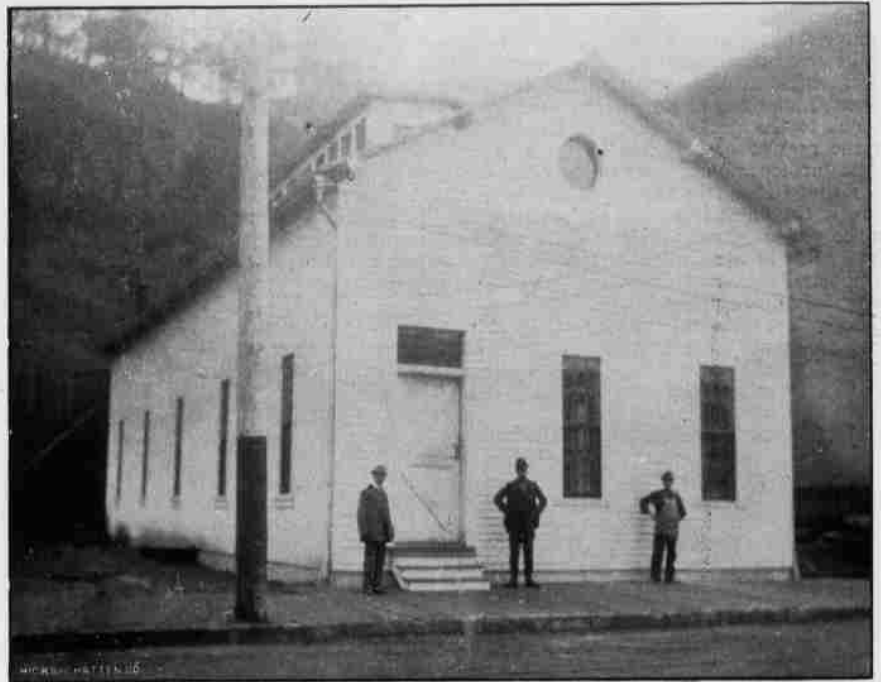
There is in addition a large 18-inch in-take pipe leading up in this basin some 700 feet, at present but pipe enough to extend 600 feet farther up is on the ground and will be laid next season when the river is lower, so that a better quality of water is obtained and no danger from the steam boats which often stir up the mud in the basin and make the water very bad during the summer months.

The total expense of all these improvements means an outlay of some \$25,000 and that will be the amount of debt that the water works will carry less what will be paid

in July, 1899, and is a prominent hardware merchant of the firm of Wilson & Cooke, and has come in for a large share of the work for the new water supply.

T. L. Charman was elected in July, 1894, and is now serving his third term. He is a large property owner and is largely identified with the growth of the city. He is the secretary of the Board and has charge of the collections.

W. H. Howell is superintendent of the water works, and is an enterprising citizen and a plumber by occupation. He has been identified with the growth of the water works for the past 17 years and has seen the system grow from a small pump on a 4-inch main, supplying Main street for a half mile



off from the surplus revenue, within probably five years. No increase of rates are anticipated except that waste of water and the unreasonable amount of sprinkling will have to be curtailed.

The members of the Board are Chas. H. Caulfield, president, who is the president of the Bank of Oregon City and secretary of P. G. E. Co., who has been a member since its organization, May 23, 1891, and takes an active interest in all matters connected with its work.

Mr. R. D. Wilson was elected a member

to the present system that has some five miles of mains, nearly 60 fire hydrants and a reservoir having a capacity of one and a half million gallons and two large water power pumps of a million gallon capacity each.

The value of the water works is at least \$75,000, and steadily increasing as mains are extended and improvements made.

The cost of operation is very light owing to the excellent water power of which the city still has a free lease for the next 20 years.



NEW VIEW OF OREGON CITY LOOKING DOWN THE RIVER.